

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing acoustic management in a computer comprising:
receiving from a user instructions regarding a selected acoustic level
via an interface; and
adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of the
computer to achieve the selected acoustic level.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
subsequent to the adjusting, demonstrating to the user the selected
acoustic level.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least
one subsystem of the computer comprises adjusting a seek time of a hard
disk drive of the computer.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least
one subsystem of the computer comprises adjusting the speed of an internal
fan.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least
one subsystem of the computer comprises making corresponding
adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the computer to maintain a
heat production level of the computer at a level that can be managed by the
internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.

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- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least
2 one subsystem of the computer is performed using redefined power
3 management levels of the computer.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the adjusting an operational level of at least
2 one subsystem of the computer comprises adjusting a speed of a peripheral
3 bus, with corresponding adjustments to a speed of at least one peripheral
4 device connected to the peripheral bus.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising, prior to the receiving, displaying a
2 graphical user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic level.
- 1 9. A system for providing acoustic management in a computer comprising:
2 means for receiving from a user instructions regarding a selected
3 acoustic level; and
4 means for adjusting an operational level of at least one subsystem of
5 the computer to achieve the selected acoustic level.
- 1 10. The system of claim 9 further comprising:
2 means for previewing to the user the selected acoustic level
3 subsequent to the adjusting.
- 1 11. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of
2 at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for adjusting a
3 seek time of a hard disk drive of the computer.
- 1 12. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of
2 at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for adjusting the
3 speed of an internal fan.

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1 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level
2 of at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for making
3 corresponding adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the computer
4 to maintain a heat production level of the computer at a level that can be
5 managed by the internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.

1 14. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of
2 at least one subsystem of the computer comprises a power management
3 system of the computer.

1 15. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for adjusting an operational level of
2 at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for adjusting a
3 speed of a peripheral bus, with corresponding adjustments to a speed of at
4 least one peripheral device connected to the peripheral bus.

1 16. The system of claim 9 wherein the means for receiving comprises a graphical
2 user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic level.

1 17. A computer including an acoustic management system, the computer
2 comprising:
3 a processor for executing instructions;
4 at least one subsystem having more than one operational levels;
5 means for receiving from a user instructions regarding a selected
6 acoustic level; and
7 means for adjusting an operational level of the at least one of the
8 subsystem to achieve the selected acoustic level.

1 18. The computer of claim 17 further comprising:

2 means for previewing to the user the selected acoustic level
3 subsequent to the adjusting.

1 19. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for
3 adjusting a seek time of a hard disk drive of the computer.

1 20. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for
3 adjusting the speed of an internal fan.

1 21. The computer of claim 20 wherein the means for adjusting an operational
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for
3 making corresponding adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the
4 computer to maintain a heat production level of the computer at a level that
5 can be managed by the internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.

1 22. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises a power
3 management system of the computer.

1 23. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for adjusting an operational
2 level of the at least one subsystem of the computer comprises means for
3 adjusting a speed of a peripheral bus, with corresponding adjustments to a
4 speed of the at least one peripheral device connected to the peripheral bus.

1 24. The computer of claim 17 wherein the means for receiving comprises a
2 graphical user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic level.

1 25. A computer program product, comprising:
2 a computer program processable by a computer system for causing
3 the computer system to:
4 receive from a user instructions regarding a selected acoustic level via
5 an interface;
6 adjust an operational level of at least one subsystem of the computer
7 to achieve the selected acoustic level; and
8 apparatus from which the computer program is accessible by the
9 computer system.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer program is
2 processable by a computer system for causing the computer system to
3 demonstrate to the user the selected acoustic level subsequent to the
4 adjusting.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the computer program is
2 processable by a computer system for causing the computer system to
3 display a graphical user interface for enabling the user to select an acoustic
4 level.

1 28. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the adjusting an
2 operational level of at least one subsystem of the computer comprises an
3 action selected from a group consisting of adjusting a seek time of a hard
4 disk drive of the computer, adjusting the speed of an internal fan, using
5 redefined power management levels of the computer, and adjusting a speed
6 of a peripheral bus, with corresponding adjustments to a speed of at least
7 one peripheral device connected to the peripheral bus.

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29. The method of claim 28 wherein the adjusting the speed of the internal fan further comprises making corresponding adjustments to overall operation of a portion of the computer to maintain a heat production level of the computer at a level that can be managed by the internal fan operating at the adjusted speed.